

Order PHYSAPODA.

PHLEOTHRIPI STENOMELAS. Ater, antennis concoloribus, capite glabro, thorace striis transversis, abdomine lineari apice lanceolato.

Deep black. Antennæ submoniliform. Head smooth, nearly as long as the thorax, which is transversely striated. Abdomen linear, lanceolate at the tip. Fore legs thick. Length  $1\frac{3}{4}$  lin.

(Cont. p. 371)

XXIV.—Descriptions of two new Species of American Parrots.

By PHILIP LUTLEY SCLATER, M.A., Secretary to the Zoological Society.

1. *Conurus holochlorus*.

Læte viridis unicolor; subtus dilutior: remigibus et rectricibus infra saturate flavicanti-olivaceis: rostro albo: pedibus clare brunneis.

Long. tota 11·0, alæ 6·5, caudæ 5·5.

Hab. in vicinitate urbis Jalapa in rep. Mexicana.

The large collection of birds made in the vicinity of Jalapa, in the Mexican State of Vera Cruz by Señor Rafael Montes de Oca, contained four examples of this Parrot,—the first which have come under my notice. It is a close ally of *Conurus parva* (Bodd.) (*Psittacus guianensis*, Gm.), but readily distinguishable by the absence of red and yellow on the under wing-coverts, which are green like the body.

The Parrots of which I have now seen examples undoubtedly from Mexico, are the following:—

1. *Rhynchopsitta pachyrhyncha* (Sw.), Phil. Mag. 1827, p. 429.

Hab. Table-land of Mexico from Rio Grande into State of Vera Cruz.

2. *Conurus holochlorus*, Selater. Hab. Vicinity of Jalapa, probably table-land.

3. *Conurus Petzii*, Hahn, Papag. t. 64. Hab. Tierra caliente of Vera Cruz; Acapulco (Boucard).

4. *Conurus astec*, Souancé, Rev. Zool. 1856, p. 154. Hab. Tierra caliente of Vera Cruz; Cordova (Sallé).

5. *Conurus lineolatus* (Cassin); *Psittacula lineola*, Cass. Pr. Ac. Sc. Phil. vi. 372. Hab. Vera Cruz, vic. of Cordova (Sallé).

6. *Pionus senilis* (Spix); *Ps. leucorhynchus*, Sw. Hab. Vera Cruz, vic. of Cordova (Sallé).

7. *Chrysotis ochroptera* (Gm.) Hab. Tierra caliente of Vera Cruz (Sallé),

8. *Chrysotis viridigenalis*, Cassin, Pr. Ac. Sc. Phil. vi. 371. Hab. Tierra caliente of Vera Cruz (Sallé).

9. *Chrysotis æstivalis*, Bp. MS.; *C. autumnalis*, Selater, P. Z. S. 1857, p. 205. Hab. Tierra caliente of Vera Cruz.

I have not yet been able to identify the two Aras (spoken of, Pr. Zool. Soc. 1857, p. 230); but one, without doubt, is *Ara macao* (Linn.) (*aracanga*, Gm.), which is common on the Pacific coast-region of Honduras\*.

2. *Conurus xantholæmus*.

Læte viridis, pileo summo cærulescente; fronte lato, oculorum ambitu, lateribus capitis et gula aurantiaco-flavis: pectore fulvescente: abdomine et tectricibus alarum inferioribus pallide flavo-viridibus, ventre medio aurantiaco-flavo: remigibus alarum intus fusco-nigris, extus cærulescenti-viridibus; cauda subtus flavicantio-olivacea, supra dorso concolore, apicem versus cærulescente; rostro nigro, pedibus nigricantibus.

Long. tota 9·5, alæ 5·30, caudæ 4·30.

*Hab.* in insula Sancti Thomæ, Antillensium.

I am indebted to my friends Alfred Newton, Esq., and his brother Edward, who have done so much to increase our knowledge of the natural productions of the islands of St. Croix and St. Thomas, for an opportunity of examining and describing this apparently hitherto unnoticed species of *Conurus*. The existence of this Parrot in St. Thomas has been known to Mr. Newton for some time; but it is only recently that he has succeeded in obtaining specimens of it.

This *Conurus* is of the same form as, and closely allied to, *Conurus pertinax* of Brazil, *C. chrysophrys* of Guiana, and *C. chrysogenys*† of Trinidad, but differs in one particular or the other from each of them. Like *C. chrysogenys*, it has a blue band on the top of the head, but it may be at once distinguished from that bird (perhaps its nearest ally) by the orange-yellow extending over the throat.

The Parrots of the Antilles, like the other animals inhabiting those islands, seem to have a very limited geographical distribution, each island producing peculiar forms, which, though not always separated by trenchant characters from their correspondents in the other islands, generally present such differences as seem to require specific distinction.

This is the case amongst the Mammalia in the genus *Capromys*; amongst the birds in the genera *Lampornis*, *Todus*, *Spindalis*, *Saurothera* and others; amongst the Reptiles in the genera *Dromicus* and *Anolis*. Were the fauna of the Antilles properly worked out, there is no doubt that numerous other instances would be found of this geographical arrangement of species.

\* See Mr. Salvin's remarks in 'The Ibis,' 1859, p. 137.

† Of M. de Souancé, but subsequently reunited by him to *Psittacus æruginosus* of Linnæus. This identification I am inclined to consider doubtful.

I subjoin a list of the Parrots now known to inhabit the different islands of the group :—

CUBA.	JAMAICA.	ST. DOMINGO.
Ara tricolor?	Ara tricolor?	
Conurus euops.	Conurus nanus.	Conurus chloropterus.
Chrysotis leucocephala.	Chrysotis collaria.	Chrysotis Sallæi.
— cyanorhyncha?	Chrysotis jamaicensis?	
	— agilis.	
PORTO RICO.	ST. THOMAS.	ST. VINCENT.
Conurus Mangæi.	Conurus xantholæmus.	
Chrysotis vittata.		Chrysotis Guildingii.

## PROCEEDINGS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

### ROYAL SOCIETY.

March 24, 1859.—Sir Benjamin C. Brodie, Bart., President, in the Chair.

“On the Vertebral Characters of the Order Pterosauria (Ow.), as exemplified in the genera *Pterodactylus* (Cuv.) and *Dimorphodon* (Ow).” By Prof. Owen, F.R.S.

After mentioning various considerations which have tended to invest the question of the vertebral characters of the Pterodactyles with peculiar interest—above all, in reference to carrying out the comparison of their skeleton with that of birds—the author alludes to the scanty information on the subject already on record, which—with the exception of a remark of Professor Quenstedt as to the apparently procelian characters observed by him in a dorsal vertebra of *Pterodactylus Suevicus*, and the apparent want of the trochlear form in the cervical articulations of that animal—affords no available data for comparing the vertebral mechanism of these reptiles with that of other vertebrata adapted for flight; he then gives a summary of his own observations, made, as opportunities presented themselves, for some years past.

From investigations of species of *Pterosauria* extending from the period of the Lias, as exemplified by the *Dimorphodon macronyx*, to the upper greensand, as exemplified by the *Pterodactylus Sedgwickii* and *Pter. Fittoni*, the author has ascertained the fact that, with respect to the cervical and dorso-lumbar vertebræ, the terminal articular surfaces of the vertebral bodies are simply concave anteriorly and convex posteriorly, and that they consequently manifest the earliest known instance of the “procelian” type which now prevails in the reptilian class. But in no other reptile are those articular surfaces so narrow vertically, in proportion to their breadth, as they are in the cervical vertebræ of the *Pterosauria*: in the dorsal series the cup and ball present more ordinary Saurian proportions.